Dear Paul,

10/8/75

I've just had a call from Lauren Schuler of the20th Century-Fox ABC special staff that wasn't necessary so I attribute it to either a misunderstanding on their part or a gesture toward decency. It is the reason I write, in the event your friendship with the son of the ABC vice president is such that you think he ought to know. If not, there is no point in your trying to do anything to help because it won't. I suppose what it reflects is the kind of mentality you have been working with.

She called, she said, to apologize or aplain that they waon't be able to keep their understanding or arrangement. There was no specific commitment by them. They had merely asked if I would be willing to be interviewed in New York (maybe also Washington) and I had said it possible.

She also said that they would have to go with people available in the area. I asked no questions because I have too much I must do to get involved in what can't make any idfference to me. My wife was a bit curious and made a list of her own. As I see it this will mean those who will fly there and those who are there. Combined they'll have a few semi-respectables and mostly nuts and self-promoters. There is nobody in the L.A. area worth airing or listening to of close to rational who anyone knowing anything about the subject would air. I'm not even going to try to think this part through. What it can mean won't make any difference to me. There are a couple in the SanFrancisco area who might be used. One has done solid research but has poor jud,oment and makes bad decisions, the other has a reputation that is not warranted on the subject.

I told her that her show will be dated before it is aired. She asked something and I told her that I had told her when she had first phoned that there would be developments before their show is aired and had invited them to come see. She remembered this.

None of us can figure that fairlyland in which you live or what it feels or can embarrass it. But I think ABC is not going to look good. And I do know that with this format they are doing to have a dud.

I have no time for details. This has been a day on which there has been nothing but interruptions. It is also the first day I've been home all week.

You will remember that long ago I told you the situation is changing and that what had not been safe is. Daily the proofs increase. I know who has been in touch with me and for what purposes. I know who I'm scheduled to see and why and what the probabilities are. There is not much probability that ABC (and CBS) are not going to be creamed with cans full of crap. Not by NBC, to whom I've not spoken. By developments and the print press. Probably the Congress, too. Of this I'll say no more now.

And to here I do not ask confidentiality. From here I do, please.

Post Mortem is in manufacture. I have a guaranteed schedule for printing and prospect that it will be improved upon. I may not be able to sell further ancillary rights but there is press interest. Major.

It is more than just this. I'm under pressure to out moreo of my work together, from friends and assbates who speak not for themselves only. The problem with this is time.

With any kind of attention at all Post Mortem will date everything else if not also make it look foolish. And everybody else. The predictable questions are not over what it can do but whether or not any or much of it can be translated into sales.

What you saw in the Enquirer is but a tiny fraction of a rounded package. When their check comes I'll complete payment for the printing. I've paid more than half already because I'm dealing with people who do not know me and I want all the speed the job can have. It will clean me out but I have two speaking engagements scheduled that will give me ax leg on the reprintings that will soom be necessary and I have firm prices on them subject~~xxxxx~~ to variations in paper prices. I'm hoping I will not need help on this. I haven't looked at a paper in days. I've been getting to bed 1:30-2:00 a.m. but I'm OK. I have to prepare for the book's appearance. Thanks for the clips.

Best,